

E-Newsletter from the official website of Henry County, VA

**Henry County Monthly Newsletter** 

# November 2008

## Nomination deadline approaches for community service award

Nominations for the eighth annual "Jack Dalton Community Service Award" will be accepted through Monday, November 17 at 5 p.m.

The award will go to the Henry County resident who best demonstrates the exemplary community service that marked Dalton's years of public service. Dalton served as a member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors for more than 24 years, and was serving as the Board Chairman at the time of his death on May 24, 2000.

The award's recipient will be recognized at the Board of Supervisors' night meeting on December 16, 2008.

Nominations should be based on the candidates' personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping promote the quality of life in Henry County. Personal financial contributions to any individual project are not relevant considerations for the award. Nominees must have performed the service for which they are being nominated within the calendar year 2008.

Nomination forms are available at the County Administration Building on Kings Mountain Road or can be downloaded from www.henrycountyva.gov . All nominations must be submitted on the nominating form.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors will review the nominations and select this year's recipient. Dr. Calvin Rains won the inaugural presentation in 2001, followed by Bill Adkins in 2002, Clay Campbell in 2003, Mary McGee in 2004, Charlie Bradshaw in 2005, Bob Petty in 2006, and the Rev. Thurman Echols in 2007.

### **Rail Trail work continues**

Officials from Henry County and the City of Martinsville are working with representatives from several local agencies to expand the "Rail Trail" system of walking and biking trails that follow abandoned stretches of rail line throughout the community.

Representatives from Henry County, the City of Martinsville, Activate Martinsville/Henry County, the Dan River Basin Association, Henry County Parks & Recreation, and the Virginia Department of Transportation participated in the "Walk the Trail" event October 23.

The trek began on the abandoned rail line near the former Prillaman Chemical site on Fisher Street in Martinsville and continued approximately three miles, ending behind the El Parral Mexican Restaurant in Henry County. When completed, this project will provide 4.5 miles of safe, high-quality trail for area residents and visitors.

The Henry County Board of Supervisors recently approved the expenditure of \$174,000 for the purchase of a right-of-way from Norfolk Southern Railway for the trail. Money for the purchase was attained through grants given to Henry County, and a grant application is pending for the development of the entire project.

A portion of "rail trail" which runs adjacent to Depot, Franklin, and Mineral Streets in Martinsville is already in place.

County offices closed for three holidays in November

Henry County's administrative offices will be closed for three holidays in November. Offices will be closed Tuesday, November 11 for Veteran's Day, as well as November 27-28 for the Thanksgiving holidays.

## Smith River Clean-up captures nearly 8 tons of trash

The fall Smith River Clean-Up was a big success, with 80 volunteers collecting 7.47 tons of trash and debris from the river, area streams and nearby roads. The week-long event began September 29 and targeted litter along the highways, ending with the river clean-up on Saturday, October 4. The "cleaning troops" included neighborhood groups, VDOT, Henry County PSA staff, Gateway staff, Henry County Sheriff's Department, Martinsville Sheriff's Department, City of Martinsville Public Works and area residents.

In addition to these volunteers, other programs and individuals are actively involved on a regular basis with one common goal - a litter-free environment. The Adopt-a-Highway program, which is managed by VDOT; Henry County's Assign-a-Highway program; the Martinsville and Henry County Sheriff's offices' inmate crews; and the Community Pride Committee formed by the Chamber of Commerce, are just a few organizations who are pitching in to help achieve a cleaner community year round.

Our winter clean-up is already scheduled for February 7, 2009 and we hope you will join us. If you are aware of a dumping site that needs our attention, please contact our office at 634-4674 or 634-4622 so we can target that area for the next event. It is a great educational experience for all citizens and we encourage you to come out if you have never helped before.

#### **Work continues at Beaver Creek Reservoir**

The Henry County Parks and Recreation Department, along with the City of Martinsville, is coordinating the renovation of facilities at the Beaver Creek Reservoir. The reservoir is owned by the City and is located in the County next to Patrick Henry Community College. The reservoir serves as the main drinking water supply for the City of Martinsville.

In addition, the reservoir provides for recreational opportunities for area residents. The lake is a great place for beginners, as well as experienced boaters, to take their canoe or kayak. It is also a popular spot for recreational fishing and the annual Kids Fishing Day is held there.

County and city staff has made significant progress and will continue working into the winter months. Several projects have already been completed or soon will be, including:

New entrance gate
New park sign
Completely renovated restrooms
Renovated picnic shelter
New trash cans at shelter
New access road to picnic shelter
New water lines installed to restrooms
Electrical power installed in restrooms
Renovated dock area
Clean-up of fallen trees
Trash cans installed around lake

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